



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Santa Monica Mountains
National Recreation Area



State of California
State Resources Agency
California Department of
Parks and Recreation



State of California
State Resources Agency
Santa Monica Mountains
Conservancy

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Federal and State Agencies Announce Public Scoping Period for King Gillette Ranch Land Use Plan

The National Park Service, California State Parks, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, announced today that they will accept written comments from now through December 2, 2008 for an upcoming design concept plan and environmental assessment for King Gillette Ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains. A public scoping meeting will be held on November 18, 2008 at 7 p.m. in the main auditorium in the Dormitory building at the park located at 26800 Mulholland Highway (just east of the intersection of Las Virgenes Road) in Calabasas.

Information about the plan is available at <http://www.smmc.ca.gov/KGRP/index.html>.

King Gillette Ranch is open to the public from 8:00 a.m. to sunset every day. The public is encouraged to visit the park. Staff will be available on Saturday November 8, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in the historic stable area of the park to answer questions about the scope of the plan and the planning process. The formal scoping meeting will be held November 18, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the main auditorium in the Dormitory building.

Located in the heart of the Santa Monica Mountain National Recreation Area adjacent to Malibu Creek State Park, the 588-acre scenic parkland is managed by the four agencies through a cooperative management agreement. The property contains unsurpassed biological resources as well as a rare unspoiled glimpse of California's rich archeological, cultural and historical resources. All four agencies are working together to draft the land use plan. Public involvement is critical for the success of the plan.

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The King Gillette Ranch Design Concept Plan may include ecological restoration zones, some use of existing buildings for visitor service improvements including a visitor center, an environmental education facility, and agency administrative offices, and parking and circulation improvements, and trails.

The majority of the 588-acre park will remain natural. Wildlife and stream corridors and previously disturbed areas will be considered for habitat restoration. After the plan is complete, the agencies will continue with design development and implementation of the preferred alternative identified in the plan, as funding becomes available.

Written comments may be submitted in the following ways:

Mail: King Gillette Ranch Planning Project

ATTN: Project Manager

401 West.Hillcrest Dr.

Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Fax: 805/370-1850

E-mail: SAMO_KGR_Planning@nps.gov

Submit comments online: <http://www.smmc.ca.gov/KGRP/index.html>

King Gillette Ranch was purchased from Soka University in 2005 with funds from eleven different funding sources from an almost unprecedented partnership of federal, State, and local government, and private donors. The main campus was subsequently leased back to the University until July 2007 to allow its students to graduate. Since then, the park has been open to the public daily. One of the most stunning locales in the Santa Monica Mountains, the biologically diverse parkland contains broad meadows and low ridgelines, valley and coast live oak savannah, grassland, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and riparian woodland. Park features include razor baron King Gillette's 1920's Spanish Colonial Revival style mansion and other structures that were part of the original landscape plan, including a constructed pond and formal courtyard. The park is enjoyed daily by hikers, birders, picnickers and school children. Public interpretive programs are offered regularly. For information on visiting the park see www.lamountains.com.